

Appl. No.: 10/823,217
Reply to Office Action of: April 20, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-16 and 19-22 stand rejected and claims 17 and 18 are objected to. The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17 and 18. The rejection of claims 1-16 and 19-22 is addressed as follows:

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Martin, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,176). Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the actuation lever includes at least one tooth located at a free end. Martin, et al., does not teach nor suggest the combination of a tooth located at a free end along with a clamping projection, both being located on the actuation lever. Although the Examiner pointed to item number 132 of the Martin, et al., reference to indicate a clamping projection, the item 132 serves a gear tooth (see column 5, line 7) on a gearing surface 138 which pulls the cam arms 26 downward in the direction of the arrow E, as described in column 6, lines 6-11. The claim as amended requires both such a tooth along with a clamping projection which is lacking in the Martin, et al., reference. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be patentably distinct from the Martin, et al., reference. Dependent claims 2-16 are also therefore patentably distinct from Martin, et al. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 18 has also been amended as necessitated by the amendment of claim 1.

Independent claim 19 has been amended to recite a latching tip extending opposite the clamping projection. Since Martin, et al., does not teach nor suggest such a latching tip extending opposite a clamping protection, claim 19 and those that depend therefrom, namely 20-

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23 are therefore also patentability distinct from Martin, et al. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,



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